Acquisition of American attack helicopters by Pakistan

128. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are contemplating to counter Pakistan's acquisition of American attack helicopters;

(b) the weapon-delivery system these helicopters are equipped with and how high and deep these can fly; and

(c) what is our threat perception in regard to this development?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The characteristics of these Helicopters are:—

(i)	Maximum Speed	315 Kilometers per hour
(ii)	Ceiling	3720 Meters
(iii)	Maximum Range	507 Kilometers
(iv)	Armament	8 numbers 2-Tow Missiles or 76 numbers 2.75 inches rockets 20 mm three barrel cannon with 750 Rounds

The requirements of our Armed Forces are reviewed continuously for induction of modernized weapons and weapon systems keeping in view the threat perception prevailing strategic environment, emerging technologies and availability of funds. It is not in the interest of national security to disclose further details in this regard.

Spurious Liquor

129. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spurious liquor is being sold clandestinely in capital market as genuine Indian Made Foreign Liquor, issued by the Canteen Stores/Department;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Military police has recently arrested a few persons found involved in the sale of such spurious liquor in the capital; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken against the accused persons?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) some cases have come to the attention of the Ministry of Defence where a few army personnel have been arrested for being involved in the sale of spurious liquor in the capital, in joint operations carried out by Civil Police and Military Police/Army Intelligence in April and August 2003. Army personnel involved in such cases are dealt with as per Army Act. However, no spurious liquor is being sold through Canteen Stores Department.

Raising of Territorial Army with ex-militants

130. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise a Territorial Army with ex-militants to counter insurgency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government to tackle and to stop spread of insurgency in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A proposal has been moved by the Ministry of Defence to raise one Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) comprising surrendered militants to be employed in conjunction with the Army and Rashtriya Rifles in counter insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) Adequate security measures have been put in place by the security forces to thwart threats posed by the terrorist groups in Jammu and Kashmir as well as other parts of the country through continuous process of technological upgrades and refinement in operating techniques. These measures are being supported by military civic actions in order to win over hearts and minds of the local population.

Accidents in Bharat Dynamic Ltd.

131. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: